

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

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R 271413Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4597

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 4 LINE 6 OMMISSION).

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR PINS ET OAU

SUBJ: ERITREA: MEDIA URGES AFRICA SUPPORT EPMG POSITION

1. ENGLISH LANGUAGE EHIOPIAN HERALD MAY 25 ISSUE (TWELFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OAU) CONTAINED AN ARTICLE BY UNNAMED STAFF REPORTER (OBVIOUSLY PLACED BY MOFA) ENTITLED "AFRICA CONTINUES TO SPEAK ON ERITREAN QUESTION." THE ARTICLE NOTED CONCERN "IN INDEPENDENT AFRICA" FOR THE UNNECESSARY LOSS OF LIFE AND SUFFERING CAUSED BY FIGHTING IN ERITREA, ESPECIALLY SINCE LAST JANUARY. AFRICA, HOWEVER, HAS "INCREASINGLY COME TO REALIZE HOW AND WHY THE ERITREAN PROBLEM HAS BEEN KEPT ALIVE AND TO WHAT EXTENT IT HAS BEEN MANIPULATED BY EXTRA-AFRICAN FORCES." THE
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ARTICLE CLAIMS "INDEPENDENT AFRICAN STATES AND THEIR MEDIA"

INCREASINGLY EXPRESS CONCERN OVER FOREIGN INTERFERENCE IN THE ERITREAN PROBLEM AND NOW "REGARD OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE AS THE PRINCIPAL FACTOR" IN ERITREA.

2. THE ARTICLE THEN RECALLS THE FOUNDING OF THE OAU, AND THE OAU'S DETERMINED STRUGGLE AGAINST INTERNAL INTERFERENCE IN AFRICA BY NON-AFRICAN STATES, AND STRESSES THE PRINCIPLE "OF INVIOABILITY OF THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF OAU MEMBERS." IT STATES "AFRICA IS AGAINST SECESSIONISM IN ERITREA AS IT HAS BEEN AGAINST SECESSIONISM ANY WHERE ON THE CONTINENT" AND ADDS, A "THREAT TO THE SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF ANY INDEPENDENT AFRICAN STATE ENDANGERS THE SECURITY OF ALL."

3. THE ARTICLE NOTES POSITIONS OF GHANA, NIGERIA, LIBERIA, SENEGAL, THE IVORY COAST, KENYA, AND TANZANIA, ALL OF WHICH PURPORT TO SUPPORT THE EPMG'S STAND IN DEFENDING THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF ETHIOPIA. THE ARTICLE CONCLUDES THAT IN LIGHT OF FUTURE EPMG DELEGATIONS TO OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES "ONE SHOULD EXPECT INDEPENDENT AFRICA TO CONTINUE TO SPEAK OUT AND SPEAK UP ON ERITREAN QUESTION."

4. COMMENT: IN ADDITION TO EPMG PRONOUNCEMENTS ON TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND THE OAU, THE ARTICLE INCLUDES A SUMMARY OF STATEMENTS AND PRESS COMMENTS GLEANED FROM FOREIGN MINISTER KIFLE WODAJO'S VISIT TO WEST AFRICA AND DISCUSSIONS IN DAR AND NAIROBI. THE EPMG IS OBVIOUSLY PREPARING THE GROUND AND DEVELOPING SUPPORT TO COMBAT ANY PRO-ERITREAN MOVES AT THE UPCOMING OAU MEETINGS IN KAMPALA. THE PUBLICATION OF THIS MATERIAL IS ALSO CLEARLY INTENDED AS A WARNING TO THE UPCOMING ARAB LEAGUE CONFERENCE AT MOGADISCIO NOT TO TREAT ERITREA IN A MANNER LIKELY TO EXACERBATE TENSIONS BETWEEN BLACK AFRICA AND THE ARAB WORLD. BY LINKING THE ERITREAN ISSUE TO THE OAU'S TWELFTH ANNIVERSARY AND ITS MANY STRUGGLES, THE EPMG REMINDS OAU MEMBERS THAT IT IS ON THE SIDE OF THE ANGELS.

5. EMBASSY POUCHING STATEMENT TO ADDRESSEE POST.
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HUMMEL

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